

through her beloved neighborhood of Fells Point. She won that fight, and, 40 years later, she is still waging and winning fights for working families.

A few years back, when NASA's scientists discovered a new supernova, they named it Supernova Mikulski, and I know her legacy will always burn bright for Maryland and for our country.

Thank you, Senator BARB.

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as a Representative from Ohio and as the senior woman in the House, I join my remarks to those of former Congresswoman and now U.S. Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, in tribute to her incredible service.

When I first arrived, she was a Member of this House, and I remember how gracious she was to me. Her background from working class, blue collar America—from a steel town like Baltimore, which has transformed since then—brought the concerns and the passion of someone from the working class. She continued on that road every single day whether she was here on the House side or went to the other body as the longest-serving woman in U.S. history. Imagine that.

Baltimore is famous for having little steps that people go into their bungalows from, and she took a giant leap. Even though she was probably still one of the shortest Members of Congress physically, she remains one of the tallest women in American history. I think of her when I look at the dome of the Capitol, and I see the woman facing east—the symbol of liberty. She held aloft high not just the flag, but the vision for an America inclusive of all.

We wish her Godspeed in the years ahead. I maintain my fond memories of her and of her incredible leadership on every subcommittee on which she served and of the honorable service that she provided not just to the citizens of Maryland, but to our entire country.

God bless you, Senator MIKULSKI, your family, your friends, and those who value your service beyond measure.

THE PENTAGON'S WASTEFUL SPENDING

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the Pentagon's \$125 billion of wasteful spending exposed this week by The Washington Post.

Just this week, Congress allocated hundreds of billions of dollars to fund a military that is larger than the next seven countries' militaries combined while we are providing a comparatively

small sum of money to increase medical research, to educate our youth, and to support our first responders. To then discover that the Pentagon has identified \$125 billion in waste underscores our Nation's misguided priorities.

If just 10 percent of that waste were redirected to the National Institutes of Health, cures could be found and lives could be saved. In this year's defense authorization, \$1.5 billion is spent to upgrade an aircraft carrier that the U.S. Navy recommended to retire. Until we press the Pentagon to undergo a rigorous audit, I cannot and will not support their bloated budget request.

I share President Eisenhower's concerns when he said:

We must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week, I had the opportunity to participate in the American Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes program, where we sent Christmas cards to servicemembers who are serving far from home this Christmas season. Though it is a seemingly simple gesture of honoring these patriots, it really causes you to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

As John 3:16 states: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

God sent his son to be born in Bethlehem that first Christmas, bringing great joy to the world—with the shepherds, the wise men, and angels all sharing in the joy and celebrations.

Christmas is a time to rejoice as children of God and to continue the tradition of giving, not out of necessity, but out of love.

We have so much to be grateful for this year. We are blessed to live in the greatest country in the world, and we owe it all to our brave and courageous men and women who sacrifice so much to safeguard our values.

So this Christmas season, in the spirit of giving, I encourage you to take a moment and show your appreciation to those who are serving our Nation both here and abroad, as well as their families here at home, and our law enforcement who have to work these times as well. May their service and sacrifice always be appreciated.

Merry Christmas.

SALUTING REVEREND T.R. WILLIAMS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a wonderful pastor, the Reverend Dr. T.R. Williams, who is celebrating and commemorating 50 years of preaching. His commitment and dedication to the special Word and the word of his faith is to be commended, but he is also a trained businessman. He is also a person who believes in his flock and that they are number one.

I have enjoyed worshipping with Pastor T.R. Williams over the years. He is an orator, a pastor, a nurturer, a counselor, but, most of all, a friend—a friend to the members of his great church and a friend to many young pastors and others alike. He is admired by his fellow clergymen. They respect him for his love of God's Word.

I am so grateful to have known him. Just a few weeks ago, his congregation honored him with a gigantic celebration at the Stafford Centre because he is deserving of such.

Pastor Williams, it is my privilege and pleasure to be able to salute you and to say "thank you" for your service, because, when you serve in the Lord's Name, you serve this Nation.

Might I also thank all of those who have served in the United States military, wherever they may be this season. This is a season of blessings, and I wish for everyone in this great Nation blessings during this wonderful and very special season.

Happy holidays to all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

A TRIBUTE TO STAFF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the members of my staff who have served me and the people of Delaware over the past 6 years. Many of them have gathered in the gallery above us, and I welcome them to hear these remarks.

I tell them all the time that we have the best jobs in the world, and they have done incredible work on behalf of the people of our State and our country. During my 6 years as Delaware's lone Member of Congress, I have been enormously privileged to work with such a great team. We have become like family. Whether they are cheering me on at the Congressional Baseball Game or they are working a weekend Coffee with Your Congressman, I know they have always got my back, and I could not have done my job for the people of my State without them.